

Akron City

September-December 2007

Akron: A City Inspired

INSIDE:

New Biogas Plant Fires Up

A New Akron Home for Goodyear?

Take A Trip on the
Akron History Trails

Keeping Our City Beautiful...
and Green (page 16)

From the Mayor...

The Importance of Saving Goodyear

Anyone over a certain age — say 30 — may still feel their blood run cold when they hear the name Sir James Goldsmith. The late British corporate raider set his sights on Akron's largest employer in 1986. An aroused citizenry, Congressional hearings, brilliant tactics — and money — fought back his attempt to commandeer Goodyear for himself. Mostly, it was the money.

As a result of that fight, which saw the Akron community come together in a way not often seen before, The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. has never been the same.

But one thing remains true: Goodyear is crucial to Akron's well-being.

Burdened by the \$94 million debt to buy off Goldsmith, the Goodyear of the past shed its aerospace division and dozens of non-tire product lines to try and become profitable.

Today, Goodyear is prospering, but remains burdened by its past — namely, the grey old lady of East Market Street that has been its corporate headquarters for most of the last century.

Make no mistake: With the technology of today, the corporation bearing the name Goodyear can be operated from anywhere. That's why I believe we have to fight just as hard to keep Goodyear here in 2007 as we did 21 years ago.

Today, the goal of every publicly traded company is to shed expenses. Maintaining historic corporate buildings is no longer part of that mission. The last four Goodyear CEOs spoke with me about this problem, and that's why we are aggressively seeking to keep Goodyear in Akron by assisting them in constructing new world headquarters and offices for their North American Tire Division.

We're lucky that we have the perfect site: A campus-like setting adjacent to Goodyear's Technical Center on Martha Avenue. But land is not enough anymore.

For that reason, I announced in April a significant partnership with respected

national developer Stu Lichter of the Industrial Real Estate Group (IRG). We know Stu — he developed the old Goodrich factories into the Canal Place of today (now home to more than 3,000 jobs) and redeveloped the Lockheed Martin site for new manufacturing and warehousing businesses.

He's offered to buy Goodyear's Market Street buildings — approximately 800,000 square feet, which would become a new engine for job creation in Akron — and construct two new buildings in a long-term lease deal.


This is not a "done deal" by any means. Goodyear has stated: "In the interest of fairness to shareholders, the company needed to thoroughly study all options."

To recruit the top-quality talent that it needs, Goodyear must compete with corporations in New York, California, the Carolinas, and elsewhere. If Goodyear is to attract and retain top talent, the company's headquarters will need a whole new community around it.

This is why Lichter asked for and received a commitment from the Bass Pro Shops Company that it would consider building a destination-sized store in East Akron off of I-76, east of Martha Avenue. The store would spur further development around the area, including new residences, new retail shops and new office space, which would create the type of neighborhood that major corporations are accustomed to having as amenities for their employees these days.



Goodyear World Headquarters

I'm very hopeful that this project will work, because of the collaboration of Goodyear, IRG, the City of Akron, Summit County, the State of Ohio, and the federal government. 



Goodyear Tech Center

Akron City

Akron City is produced three times a year. The magazine and recycling calendar are distributed by U.S. Mail to all residents of Akron by Keep Akron Beautiful, a not-for-profit corporation in the state of Ohio, Paula Davis, director.

Additional copies of the magazine and recycling calendar are available through:

Keep Akron Beautiful

850 E. Market Street

330-375-2116

e-mail: KeepAkronBeautiful@ci.akron.oh.us

Our Cover Photo...

...is **Bruce Ford's** photo of the Akron Art Museum that opened this summer to international acclaim. The architect is Wolf Prix from Vienna. Akron area workers under the direction of Akron's Welty Construction Co. implemented the complex design.

Tell us what you think by replying to editor@ci.akron.oh.us

Or share your thoughts with the mayor at mayor@ci.akron.oh.us

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Neighbors Day a Success

City Residents Get to Know Each Other

By Billy Soule

More than 2,500 residents answered Mayor Don Plusquellic's call to get to know their neighbors during the first Neighbors Day Akron celebration held Memorial Day weekend. Folks throughout the Akron community participated by inviting people on their block to share ideas and safety concerns while enjoying games, food and refreshment.

In many neighborhoods, small groups of neighbors chatted in front yards and on driveways. Some larger gatherings, such as the event held at Chesapeake Pointe Apartments on the City's East Side, attracted about 150 people. Most events were attended by adults, who used the opportunity to discuss neighborhood issues. But children throughout the City participated in the fun — while also learning valuable lessons about the benefits of neighborly interaction.

Food was a part of most celebrations, with games and entertainment at others. The smiles seen all over the City told the rest of the story — the inaugural Neighbors Day Akron was a big success. And, according to the feedback received by the mayor, we're all looking forward to spreading more neighborly cheer in 2008. 



Among those neighborhoods gathering on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend for food, fun, and friendliness were members of the Dover Avenue block Club in West Akron (top), residents of the Dodge-Payne area in Highland Square (right) and friends from the Chesapeake Pointe Townhomes in East Akron (bottom).



More than 2,500 residents throughout the City participated by inviting their neighbors to share fun and conversation.



Water and Sewer Bills Have New Look

By Mark Williamson

As part of the City's continuing effort to improve communications with our customers, your municipal government is now providing more information about where your money goes when you pay your monthly water and sewer bill.

Issued by the Akron Public Utilities Bureau, the monthly statements now have a new, more complete look. Akron provides water and sewer service to almost 90,000 addresses throughout Summit County. To improve service, the City wanted to give its customers more details on the actual costs associated with providing the service.

Customers in Akron and Fairlawn and Village of Mogadore have been receiving the new, itemized water bills since August. Portions of Cuyahoga Falls, Bath, Springfield, Copley and Coventry Township will also be receiving the new-look bills.

Akron's Public Utilities Bureau charges a water fee and a sewer fee based on the amount of water a customer uses, which is calculated in hundred-cubic-foot increments (designated on bill as "CCF").

The new bills indicate the price per CCF next to the measure of units consumed each month and will itemize all fees, including billing charges.

Old bills provided customers only with the total amount due. The intent of the new, more detailed bill is to improve a customer's ability to gauge usage and understand the charges reflected in the bill.

Customers will also notice the SCO Surcharge, which helps pay for a federally mandated basin that keeps raw sewage out of the Cuyahoga River.

Public Utilities Bureau Manager Michael McGlinchy says the city changed the bills to provide more detail.

"The notation for the billing charge explanation might need to be even more detailed, based on some of the calls we have taken," McGlinchy says. "The [billing] charge covers the complete processing of the actual customer bill; not only stamps and envelopes, but what it costs to read water meters and also for our business office and the folks who deal with customers in the field."

The charge has always been there, but the city now is providing the details of it for its customers.

Questions or comments concerning the new bills should be directed to the Akron Public Utilities Bureau at 330-375-2554 or apubilling@ci.akron.oh.us.

City of Akron
Public Utilities Bureau
140 S. High Street, Room 211
Akron, OH 44308-4000
Customer Service: 1-800-275-0588
Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:00am - 4:00pm

BILLING PERIOD
METER NUMBER (S): 25363113 FROM: 5/06/2007 TO: 6/06/2007 31 DAYS PREVIOUS: 208 ACT PRESENT: 215 ACT CONSL. TUB CF: 7 WATER

READING PERIOD		METER READING INFORMATION	
METER NUMBER (S)	FROM	TO	DAYS
25363113	5/06/2007	6/06/2007	31

PREVIOUS ACTIVITY
PREVIOUS BILLING: \$15.78
PAYMENT 6/11/07 - THANK YOU: \$15.78
BALANCE FORWARDED: \$0.00

CURRENT ACTIVITY
MONTHLY CHARGES: \$15.80
CDO SURCHARGE: \$0.00
CDS SERVICE: \$19.00
RECYCLE DISCOUNT: \$3.00
BILLING CHARGE: \$4.74

TOTAL CURRENT CHARGES: \$39.06
TOTAL AMOUNT DOW DUE: \$39.06

READING PERIOD
METER NUMBER (S): 25363113 FROM: 5/06/2007 TO: 6/06/2007 31 DAYS PREVIOUS: 208 ACT PRESENT: 215 ACT CONSL. TUB CF: 7 WATER

READING PERIOD		METER READING INFORMATION	
METER NUMBER (S)	FROM	TO	DAYS
25363113	5/06/2007	6/06/2007	31

PREVIOUS ACTIVITY
PREVIOUS BILLING: \$15.78
PAYMENT 6/11/07 - THANK YOU: \$15.78
BALANCE FORWARDED: \$0.00

CURRENT ACTIVITY
WATER MONTHLY CHARGES: \$15.80
SEWER MONTHLY CHARGES: \$15.80
CDO SURCHARGE: \$0.00
CDS SERVICE: \$19.00
RECYCLE DISCOUNT: \$3.00
BILLING CHARGE: \$4.74

TOTAL CURRENT CHARGES: \$39.06
TOTAL AMOUNT DOW DUE: \$39.06

Akron's Public Utilities Bureau charges a water fee and a sewer fee based on the amount of water a customer uses; this is calculated in hundred-cubic-foot increments

Neighborhoods

Ellet



L to R: Kim Sokol, Pepper Sokol, Brian Lukinac, Penny Sees, Dorene Sees, Mollie Salter

Duffy's Restaurant: A 60-Year Tradition

By Robert Sberna

Like its surrounding Ellet neighborhood, Duffy's Restaurant has a distinct family-oriented atmosphere. Owner Penny Sees, an Ellet native, oversees a restaurant staff that includes three generations of her family.

Established in 1948, the Darrow Road establishment serves hearty meals that feature made-from-scratch soup, steaks, and beer-battered fish. Duffy's recipe for success is simple, says Sees. "We're known for our quality food and good service and we've developed a loyal customer base," she explains. "Many of our customers first came here when they were kids. Now, they are bringing their own children here."

Sees was just 15 when she began working at Duffy's, joining her mother, Mollie Salter, who semi-retired this summer after 39 years of waitressing. "I worked my way through the University of Akron by waiting tables at Duffy's," Sees notes. After graduation, Sees took an accounting job, but continued to work weekends at the restaurant.

In 2005, Sees had the opportunity to purchase the restaurant. Although she works full-time at Goodyear Tire & Rubber, she still spends about 25 hours a week at Duffy's. The restaurant's daily operations are handled by Sees's sister, Kim Sokol; sister-in-law, Dorene Sees; and nephew Pepper Sokol.

"Duffy's is a throwback to an older era," Sees notes. "We're one of the few places that still offer a full-course meal of soup, salad, entrée, potato and dessert."

Saving Money And The Environment With BIOGAS

By Mary Davidson

City employee Brian Gresser spends his workdays in an environment that most people don't even want to think about. As manager of the City's wastewater treatment plant, he oversees the safe disposal of the icky stuff people flush down their toilets and drains.

Gresser understands his job is vital to Akron. And, these days, he finds it truly exciting. He will soon oversee a new, eco-friendly and cost-efficient system to dispose of Akron's waste. For an environmental engineer, that's like having a longed-for toy under the Christmas tree.

Anaerobic digestion is a naturally occurring biological process in which large numbers of bacteria convert organic matter into methane and carbon dioxide (a mixture called biogas) in the absence of air. The process reduces germs and odors, and reduces the sludge quantity by converting part of the solids to biogas. Anaerobic digestion results in a product that contains stabilized solids, biogases and some available forms of nutrients.

This fall, the City's contractor, KB Compost Services, is expected to flip the switch on a new, \$7 million biogas facility that will use bacteria and waste to generate electricity. Although such plants are not uncommon in Asia and Europe, it will be the first municipal operation of its kind in the United States. Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic learned about the concept during a trip to Germany and Switzerland. He believed it merited consideration as an option for Akron.

After much research and discussion, the City and KB, which is based in Independence, agreed to join forces in the construction and operations of the biogas plant, which will be located on the site of the City's existing compost facility on

Riverview Road. The project already has a big plus: The City's existing compost facility will provide some infrastructure for the new plant, which means significant savings in construction costs.

KB turned to Schmack Biogas AG for expertise and equipment. The two companies formed a new firm named Schmack Bio-Energy. Headquartered in Germany, Schmack Biogas AG was founded in 1995 by a group of farming brothers who had a lot of manure on their hands and no good ways to dispose of it. The company is now a leader in the biogas industry across Europe and Asia.

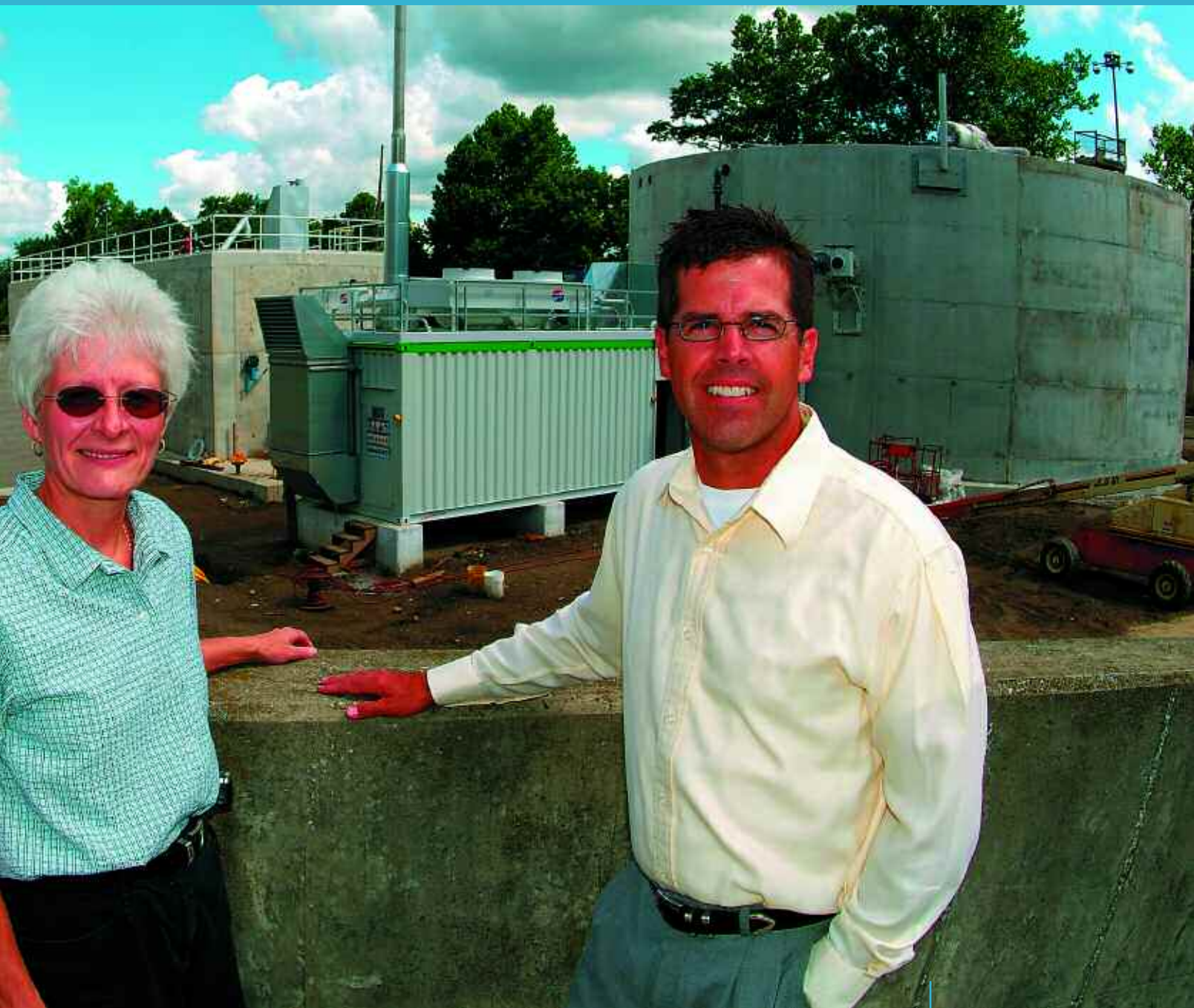
The City's initial investment in the project is \$835,000. The investment will be funded, in part, from the \$250,000 a year Akron now receives from KB Compost Services for the sale of compost made at the City's facility. KB is fronting the remainder of the initial investment with the hope that the lessons learned in Akron will help them open similar plants across the country.

The new system uses bacteria that don't need oxygen to ferment sewage sludge, a process called anaerobic digestion. The bacteria consume the sludge and produce a gas rich in methane. In previous applications, the gas was treated as a

useless byproduct and burned off. With the new system, the gas will be used to power an electric generator, explains Annette Berger, vice president of operations at KB. The new plant is designed to handle about 5,000 tons a year, which is one-third of the sludge that now goes through the compost plant.

Berger notes that concerns over the environment and rising costs for energy and wastewater treatment have caused a surge





of interest in anaerobic digestion and biogas in the United States. Akron will serve as a test market of sorts, she adds.

At present, the City spends about \$1.35 million a year in electricity costs for handling sewage waste from Akron and the suburbs tied to its system. The biogas facility is expected to reduce those costs. The biogas process will generate an estimated 335 kilowatts, with the new plant consuming 25 percent of that amount. The remainder

will be used to power other operations at the plant.

The City's contract with KB requires the partners to decide after 18 months of operation whether the process is working satisfactorily. "We have the right to walk away if the system is not meeting agreed-upon performance criteria," says Brian Gresser. If the system does meet expectations, it can be expanded to replace Akron's composting operation, which costs the City \$6.2 million a year and

sometimes creates an unpleasant odor.

With the new biogas plant, says Gresser, there should be significantly less smell because the facility is completely enclosed.

Cost efficient? Environmentally friendly? Less stink?

For Akron residents, biogas is going to be a breath of fresh air. ©

Annette Berger, of KB Compost Services, and Brian Gresser, manager of the City's wastewater treatment plant, on-site at the City's new biogas facility, which will use bacteria and waste to generate electricity.



A Business success story: Main Street Gourmet, which started out as a 2-man retail store on the site of today's Lock 3 (below) treated its 100+ employees to "Muffin Day" at Lock 3 in July to celebrate its 20th year in business. Now located in Akron's Ascot Industrial Park, the business today distributes nationally. The party included a Muffin Eating contest (above) and raised funds for the United Way.



Shadyside Park hosted a summer of free concerts every Wednesday night, sponsored by the City of Akron, and produced by the City's Recreation Bureau. Hundreds of people turned out to hear music from the gazebo stage.



This is



Akron's new Art Museum officially cut the ribbon on its new quarters this summer, with donors (L-R) Vivian Celeste Neal of the Knight Foundation; Beatrice Knapp McDowell, honorary trustee; Lynne Van Nostran, development officer for the Museum; and Sandra Haslinger, honorary trustee, doing the honors on the \$45 million project.





The Glendale Steps, a Depression-era WPA project, were cleaned-up by City work crews and marked by the Ohio Historical Society, with Mayor Plusquellic, J.D. Britton of OHS, and Steve France, president of Progress Through Preservation unveiling the plaque, (lower right) while long-time preservation advocate Ramona Smith basks in the moment (far left).



AKRON

Photos by Bruce Ford



Four Days of Grillin' and Groovin' marked Akron's annual 4th of July celebration on South Main Street. The "Best Ribs" contest judges pay close attention to their task: Akron Library Director David Jennings (at left) and Congressman Tim Ryan (D-OH-17). While Mark Gibbs of the Downtown Akron Partnership's "Neat Streets" program is jubilant (above) after sampling all the vendors' products.



07.07.07 8:26 PM Old School Soul



07.07.07 7:46 PM



07.07.07 10:13 PM Concert at Lock 3 Live

07.07.07 9:36 PM Gala Opening at the Art Museum



M Akron Aeros vs Erie Sea Wolves

07.07.07 6:46 PM Art Walk



07-07-07 (July 7, 2007) was a memorable date for the City of Akron with one of Lock 3's largest crowds ever jamming the Downtown entertainment venue for a night of "Old School Soul." A different kind of party — ball gowns and tuxedos — was the first event at the new Akron Art Museum that same night (bottom left). The Akron Aeros welcomed their 5-millionth fan during their weekend series with Erie (above center) while arts-minded strollers did the Art Walk at Northside (above right). Wedding bells also rang that night for the Black Keys' Patrick Carney and his bride Denise Grollmus who held their reception at the Lime Spider (lower right).



Akron History Trails Guide Residents to Monuments, Markers, and Museums

by Dave Lieberth

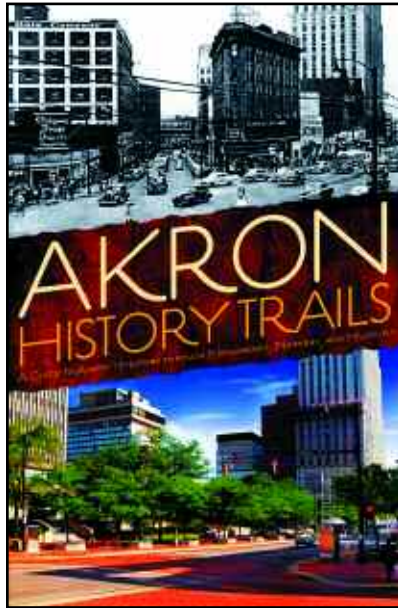
Akronites love their history. For the second year, more than 10,000 people have joined in what is becoming an annual affair — walking through the City to see its historic sites.

This year, a new booklet was published to highlight 15 different “trails” that encompass the stories of the Original People who marked the trail of the Portage Path as well as Akron’s founders and the homes of our industrial titans. The highlighted trails also encompass the story of the City’s social history, including the founding of AA and our African-American history.

The project is possible because of a grant made by the City to the Summit County Historical Society, which collaborates with history-related organizations to produce the original material plus a History Passport.

Maps in the new booklet guide visitors along the new sections of the Canal Towpath through Downtown and the Cuyahoga Valley. Also included are maps marking historic sites of the ceramics and farm implement industries which sustained Akron before the rubber business came along.

I also thought it worthwhile to begin to catalogue all of our historic markers and




WHERE TO FIND THE **FREE** AKRON HISTORY TRAILS BOOKLET

City Hall, 166 S. High St.
Summit County Historical Society
Akron AA Archives
Akron History Exhibit at Lock 3 and Toy Marble Museum
Akron Summit County Public Library
Mustill Store: Cascade Locks Park Association
Hower House
Dr. Shirla R. McClain Gallery of Akron’s Black History
Stan Hywet Hall Foundation

Other Participating Organizations

Akron Fire Department
Akron Police Department
Cuyahoga Valley National Park
Downtown Akron Partnership
FirstMerit
Metro RTA
Metro Parks Serving Summit County
Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition
TV Dinner Club Museum
The University of Akron
Akron Publishing Company

monuments. The 34-page booklet locates 20 different plaques just in Downtown. In 2008, the Akron History Workgroup plans to focus on Akron’s 20 distinct neighborhoods as Kenmore celebrates its centennial.

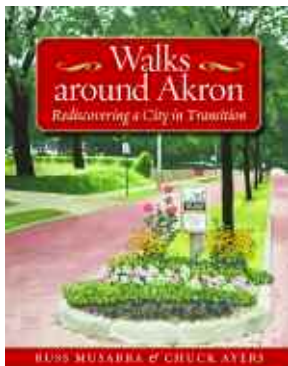
If you have an idea for a site that needs to be recognized next year, contact me at the Mayor’s Office, liebeda@ci.akron.oh.us. 

Just Published:

Walks Around Akron: Rediscovering a City in Transition

By Russ Musarra and Chuck Ayers

Published by the University of Akron Press



This new book celebrates the simple pleasure of seeing a community at a slow pace from ground level. In 1987, the *Akron Beacon Journal* began publishing a series of articles about Akron written by Russ Musarra and illustrated by Chuck Ayers. These popular essays-with-art continued in the newspaper through the end of 2000 and can now be read in Akron City magazine. Musarra and Ayers realized that many places shown in Ayers’s artwork had disappeared or were permanently altered not long after the articles were published. They had been inadvertently documenting Akron in transition.

Go to uapress@uakron.edu



DID YOU KNOW... that the Key Bank Building on South Main Street at Bowery is built in a stone quarry? Hundreds of visitors to the City-sponsored Geology Walk in September learned about the City’s ancient geological history from University of Akron professors, who have assembled a new brochure about the building stones used in Downtown. The free brochure is available by request to the editor@ci.akron.oh.us.



A Tale of Two Cemeteries

By Russ Musarra / Illustration by Chuck Ayers

We were reminded of a couple of adages as our work on this feature drew to a close. The first is the one that cautions: “Never make assumptions.” The other — frequently uttered by C. Aubrey Moore, my junior high school orchestra director — is: “If you’re going to make a mistake, make it a good one.”

Artist Chuck Ayers and I assumed we knew where we were going when we strolled into East Akron Cemetery on East Market Street, just north of Goodyear Boulevard. That is, we assumed we were going to the Middlebury cemetery that our friend, retired University of Akron professor of library sciences Ruth Clinefelter, often speaks about.

After all, East Akron Cemetery is in Middlebury, Akron’s oldest neighborhood, which was a thriving town of 300 when Akron was founded in 1825. Since the cemetery is the final resting place of some of Akron’s earliest residents, we assumed that it must be the place she encouraged us to visit.

We were mistaken.

East Akron Cemetery was created to replace the Middlebury Cemetery, a tiny plot on the north side of Newton Street opposite Barder Avenue. Middlebury was the first public cemetery within the City of Akron, we learned by reading a 2003

Progress Through Preservation history of the plot. The document was written, we were delighted to discover, by our friend Ruth.

A half-acre plot that became Middlebury Cemetery was donated by settler Titus Chapman in 1808. Chapman died in November of that year, and probably was the first person buried there, Ruth wrote, adding that the cemetery was most notable as the burial place of Revolutionary War veterans, among them William Neal, Thomas Sumner, Lambert Clement, Hosea Wilcox Jr. and Chapman.

The Middlebury Cemetery Association, formed to help maintain the Newton Street burial grounds, bought 13 acres along East Market between Willard and German Alley in 1853 to establish East Akron Cemetery. The association continued to care for Middlebury Cemetery until August 1904, but few, if any new burials took place there after East Akron Cemetery opened.

Old newspaper clippings and vintage maps and documents from the Summit County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society revealed a plethora of facts about the Middlebury neighborhood and its two cemeteries. Here are just a few:

- East Akron Cemetery was also known as Middlebury Cemetery.


- Middlebury Cemetery was also known as Newton Cemetery and Old Cemetery.

- Ohio Columbus Barber, the entrepreneur best known as the founder of Barberton, made Middlebury his first home in the Connecticut Western Reserve in 1826, 46 years before the town became part of Akron.

- Middlebury pioneer Joseph Hart’s daughter, Eliza, was the first white child born in what is now Akron. She married Middlebury merchant Roswell Kent, whose name adorns a school and two streets in the neighborhood.

We discovered that East Akron Cemetery is as contemporary as it is historic, as evidenced by the many graves of veterans who served in 20th century conflicts as well as a Veterans Memorial that dominates a large circle near the center of the cemetery and looks as if it was newly erected.

Our last stop was the large mausoleum at the cemetery’s east end. It has seen better days. A rusty steel gate was secured by an equally rusty padlock, but the thick double doors were open and we could see scaffolding and other signs that work was underway inside.

As we walked along the north side of the mausoleum, two cats appeared out of nowhere. They stared for a moment, then howled at us, signaling it was our time to leave. 

Russ Musarra may be reached at rmusarra@neo.rr.com



Akron City officials were on hand for the official 10th anniversary celebration commemorating the sister-city relationship with Chemnitz, Germany this summer.

Akron Celebrates A Decade of the Chemnitz Connection



Akron's Deputy Mayor Dave Lieberth presented the gift of a 140-year-old clay bottle manufactured by Merrill Pottery on the exact site where Akron's German Chriskindl Market takes place each year. In return, Burgermeister Detlef Nonnen presented the City of Akron with a 300-million-year old slice of its petrified forest.



Music for the occasion was supplied by the 60-member children's touring choir of the Summit Choral Society, directed by Frank and Arlene Jacobs. In addition to performing inside the Chemnitz City Hall, the choir gave an evening performance at the recently restored St. Mark's church, which had been bombed by the Allies in World War II.

Mayor Plusquellic says Akron is among the most successful cities in the U.S. in attracting European investments over the last decade, which has translated to about 500 new local jobs according to the Greater Akron Chamber.



Deputy Planning Director Sam DeShazor used the opportunity to visit the Technical Incubator in Chemnitz, and meet with business leaders there who have an interest in relocating facilities to the United States.



The Town Crier

by Russ Musarra

YOUNG VOLUNTEERS WIN RECOGNITION

Ninety-nine Akron young people won the applause of their community as the year's top, young volunteers on National & Global Youth Service Day in a ceremony presided over by Mayor **DON PLUSQUELLIC** and locally sponsored by U.S. Bank.

The Akron event, which featured Miss Ohio, **MELANIE MURPHY** of Brook Park, as guest speaker, took place April



Volunteer of the Year Michael Kurtz and Miss Ohio Melanie Murphy.

24 at the Main Library, as young volunteers around the globe were similarly being honored.

MICHAEL KURTZ of the All Star Training Club won top honors as Volunteer of the Year. **AARON KELLEY**, who volunteers at Akron General Medical Center, received the Outstanding Volunteer award. Honorable Mention went to **NATHAN HURD**, an American Red Cross, Summit County Chapter, volunteer.

Volunteer Group of the Year honors went to the All Star Equestrians 4-H Club for its work with the Ohio State University Extension Service. Outstanding Group honors went to St. Paul's Youth for its work at the Haven of Rest. ©

NEW CHIEF IS AKRON FIRE DEPARTMENT'S LONGEST-SERVING MEMBER



When Akron Mayor **DON PLUSQUELLIC** appointed **LARRY BUNNER** fire chief, he selected the 363-member department's longest-serving member. Bunner, 58, observed his 35th anniversary with the department in June. A deputy chief since January 1966, he was promoted to lieutenant in 1978, became a captain in 1986 and a district chief in 1991. In accepting his new responsibilities, the Navy veteran said, "If there is a better way to serve the community than the way we're doing things now, we'll find it, I assure you. It is an honor and a privilege for me to serve Akron in this capacity." ©

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

Detective **FRANK HARRAH**, honored last October, wasn't mentioned in this space because of a clerical error — probably mine. He joined the Police Department in



1994 and became a detective in 1999. A member of the Detective Bureau's Major Crimes Unit, his skills at computer-based investigative techniques were major factors in several homicide convictions during the last five years. He and his wife, **PAT**, are active at St. Vincent's Church.

March honoree, Ellet Community Center Supervisor **KIM HUSKEY**, began her City service in 1986 as a seasonal worker at Mason Park Community Center. After working at Forest Lodge and Reservoir



Park Community Centers, she joined the Ellet staff when it opened in 1994. She handles planning, programming and overseeing the Center's operation with enthusiasm, dedication and reliability. She lives in Goodyear Heights with her husband **BOB**. She has a son, **MICHAEL**, daughter, **NIKKI**, and two grandchildren.

Officer **BRIAN CRESSWELL**, February's honoree, joined the Police Department in

1999. Known for his determination and attention to detail as he patrols the North Hill area, Cresswell is considered a resource for detectives and a catalyst for developing cases in collaboration with the City's gang unit. He wrote the grant request for this



summer's Hot Spot enforcement. The North Hill native is a 1987 North High School graduate, a St. Vincent Church member and a coach for the North Akron Baseball Association. He and his wife **LAURI** have four children.

January honoree **JOE PREKOP** has been a member of the Finance Department's Information Technology applications programmer section since 2004. He maintains, upgrades and troubleshoots the City's computer network and server environments. He helped Traffic Engineering implement



its new traffic camera and control network and helped Water Pollution Control set up its new video and control network. He was a student intern when he joined the Engineering Bureau in 2000. He graduated from the University of Akron in 2003 with a BS in Business Information Systems. ©




KAB Takes on New Role to Make Akron "Greener"

KEEP AKRON BEAUTIFUL was selected by Mayor Don Plusquellic to create a new "Greenprint for Akron," a long-term plan that is expected to emerge from a series of community conversations over the next year on how Akron can reduce its carbon footprint.

Mayor Plusquellic announced that he has invited Keep Akron Beautiful to take on the new role of acting as a community clearinghouse for information on how Akron can become more "green" to save energy, to limit waste and to make new buildings "smarter." The initiative will encourage our businesses and citizens to participate in environmentally friendly activities that will benefit the entire community.

Plusquellic also announced that since automated trash collection was implemented a year ago in Akron, participation has markedly increased in one year. Noting that 48 percent of Akron households are now recycling, the Mayor notes, "This is an improvement of almost 30 percent in just 12 months."

The announcement was made at the Akron Zoo's new Education Center; Summit County's only LEED-certified building. (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.) 

AKRON ASTERS are abloom at the David and Collene Wilson residence on Caine Road in Ellet. The seeds were provided with the April issue of *Akron CITY* magazine. If you have pictures of your red, white, and blue asters, send them to editor@ci.akron.oh.us, or to Keep Akron Beautiful, 850 E. Market St.

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